



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 DECEMBER 2016

(U) NATIONAL

(U) New York—Klansman Gets 30-Year Sentence for Plot against Muslims, Obama

(U) New York—A self-proclaimed white supremacist convicted on charges he planned to use a "death ray" to kill Muslims and President Barack Obama was sentenced yesterday to 30 years in prison, federal prosecutors in New York said. Glendon Scott Crawford, 52, a Navy veteran and a member of the Ku Klux Klan, was found guilty in August 2015 of conspiring with another man to build a radiation dispersal device. Crawford is the first person to be convicted under a law barring attempts to acquire or use a radiological dispersal device, which combines conventional explosives, such as dynamite, with radioactive material.

SOURCE: 19 December 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) Ohio—Three Romanians Indicted in \$4 Million Cyber Fraud Ring

(U) Cleveland—Three Romanian nationals were extradited to the United States last week to face charges in connection with a cyber fraud conspiracy ring that targeted residents of Northeast Ohio and others around the nation, US Attorney Carole Rendon announced on 16 December. Investigators say the men and others in the ring, identified in court documents as the Bayrob Group, infected at least 60,000 computers, distributed 11 million malicious emails and stole at least \$4 million. California-based Symantec said it helped the eight-year investigation into the group by discovering and analyzing the Bayrob malware and charted the gang's progress.

SOURCE: 19 December 2016, [InfoSecurity](#), and 16 December 2016, [Cleveland.com](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany—Christmas Market was Target of Terrorist Attack, Says Merkel

(U) Berlin—Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany said that the Berlin Christmas market where 12 people died yesterday was the target of a terrorist attack. The German interior minister, Thomas de Maizière, said that a man arrested on suspicion of involvement in the attack was a 23-year-old Pakistani who had applied for asylum. However, the German federal prosecutor's office says the man detained may not be responsible for the slaughter, raising the prospect that other suspects may still be at large. One of the 12 people killed was a Polish man who was found dead with a gunshot wound in the passenger seat of the truck, though authorities considered the man to be a victim and not a perpetrator.

SOURCE: 20 December 2016, [New York Times](#) and [ABC News](#)

(U) Jordan—ISIL Claims Attack on Karak Castle; Security Forces Continue to Clash with Gunmen

(U) Karak—The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has claimed it was behind an attack in Jordan over the weekend that killed 10 people, including a Canadian tourist. A statement circulated on the messaging app Telegram named four "soldiers of the caliphate" who it said had been involved in the assault in Karak. The statement added that Jordanian security forces and citizens of the US-led coalition against ISIL were targeted. Meanwhile, Jordanian security have launched a manhunt in search of

suspects who may have had links to the four militants involved in Sunday's attack, clashing with unidentified gunmen after a raid on a house on the outskirts of the city.

SOURCE: 20 December 2016, [BBC](#) and [Reuters](#)

(U) Switzerland—Shooter Opens Fire Inside Muslim Prayer Hall

(U) Zurich—A gunman dressed in dark clothes carried out a shooting spree at a Zurich mosque yesterday, wounding three people before fleeing. Authorities quickly launched a manhunt but suspended it after a body was found in the vicinity, which turned out to be that of the assailant. There is no indication that the assailant, who appeared to have killed himself, had links to radical Islamist or far-right movements, according to Swiss police.

SOURCE: 20 December 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Turkey—Russian Ambassador Assassinated; Shots Fired Outside US Embassy

(U) Ankara—The Russian ambassador to Turkey, Andrey Karlov, was killed yesterday while speaking at an art gallery event by a 22-year-old off-duty police officer. The shooting, which was captured on television and widely-circulated on social media, was followed by the killer stating “don’t forget Aleppo, don’t forget Syria!” The shooter was killed minutes later by members of Turkey's special forces. His flatmate, mother, father, sister, and two other relatives have since been detained, according to state-run media. Unrelated, an individual approached the US embassy hours later and discharged a firearm, the embassy said. The individual was arrested, however, the embassy and two consulates in Turkey will remain closed today.

SOURCE: 20 December 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) New Mexico—Native Dreamcatchers Used for Meth Smuggling

(U) Columbus—A Mexican woman tried to smuggle liquid methamphetamine into the US by hiding it inside Native American-style dreamcatchers when she crossed the border into New Mexico over the weekend, federal officials said yesterday. After a drug-sniffing dog alerted customs officers, a search found six dreamcatchers in the woman's car with rings made of rubber tubing filled with a liquid that tested positive for methamphetamine, the officials said. Robert Reza, director of the Columbus Port of Entry, said smugglers frequently conceal drugs in soft drink cans, framed artwork, and other seemingly innocent items.

SOURCE: 19 December 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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